

No desks in these classrooms

by John Kenney

You may well have considered your predicament as you sat in voluntary bondage, constrained by the desk, that "efficient" moulding of wood and steel. Perhaps the solution lies within a new classroom whose structural design and arrangement is far less confining. Well...such a classroom can be found in either rm. 289, Central Academic Bldg, or rm. 232, Biological Sciences Bldg, Microbiology Wing. They are both experimental classrooms

which are reserved by various classes on an irregular basis.

Inside CA 289 one is confronted with carpeting, arm chairs, several carpet-covered platforms, and a dazzling array of colored spotlights hanging from the ceiling. Moveable partitions are suspended from tracks in the ceiling, making it possible to alter the inner structure of the classroom in various ways.

BSM 232 is furnished with mountains of large cushions

lying about, carpeted floors and an open ceiling, exposing an engineer's nightmare of lights, pipes, and ventilation shafts. The walls are adorned with some colorful psychedelia - an amusing vision of the Hendrix (Pepsi?) generation. (Claustrophobic individuals beware...there aren't any windows in this room.)

A more crucial aspect of these experimental rooms is not the furnishings but the changes brought about, if any, in the student-teacher

relationships. For most people the decentralization of the traditional class set-up facilitated a greater degree of free discussion. Any other classes, which would consist of considerable note-taking rather than discussion, would be at a distinct disadvantage because of the lack of writing surfaces.

A few other qualifying factors also became evident. For instance, Professor Richard Bosley commented that he would never schedule an experimental room with any first year class. When asked why, he replied that he liked to know his students better before leading them into such a situation, and that he would never want to "force" a personal and potentially uncomfortable relationship upon his students.

In the early stages of planning and construction of these experimental rooms, it is to be wondered whether 'veterans' of the conventional classroom situations were even consulted. Then again, considering most students' tortuous route through endless suffocating classrooms, perhaps it was wiser if they were not consulted. What could most contribute to architectural redesign after more than a decade of passive acceptance of the traditional classroom absurdities? For these reasons and others, one can see the problems surrounding experimental classrooms and even, perhaps, the larger question of alternate modes of education.

On a more local level, experimental classrooms might be created in many of the houses in the North Garneau district that are facing demolition. Somehow, the very walls of many of these old

Errata

In Tuesday's issue of the *Gateway*, it was inaccurately reported that *Poundmaker* had been banned from city libraries and confiscated by city police. In fact, *Poundmaker* was not banned from libraries nor confiscated by city police.

homes exude a warmth and feeling of life, itself, which a building like Biological Sciences will never be able to generate. In fact, a person's voice acquires a faint echo in BSM 232 which sets up a slightly ghoulish effect - rather like a cry or scream from within an empty coliseum. Forget the possibility of getting a house in North Garneau though...we need more parking lots to service the 'new improved' developments.

A MORAL LESSON

A lecture on moral education will be given by an Oxford University lecturer in Tory building, TL B2, on Tuesday at 8:15 p.m.

John Boyd Wilson, who was a visiting lecturer at the University of Alberta in 1973, will be discussing what schools do in regard to morals at a time when authority structures are being challenged.

The lecture is being sponsored by the University of Alberta and St. Stephen's College.



"a dazzling array of colored spotlights hang from the ceiling..."

Photo by Bob Goethe



FORUM

ABRAHAM ROTSTEIN

The major intellectual force behind the

COMMITTEE

for an

INDEPENDENT CANADA

will speak on

"NATIONALISM IN A CONSERVATIVE DECADE"

Some of Dr. Rotstein's words:

"In the area of foreign ownership, a travesty of a policy has been offered that will block for the lifetime of this government. Having removed the State from the bedrooms of the nation as its single achievement, the Government has now applied this prohibitive injunction to the boardrooms as well.

Whatever time the Prime Minister's entourage, the Supergroup, could spare from their diagrams and visions of "efficiency", they have devoted to the neglect of the issues that will determine the survival of this country. The root of the Government's paralysis is consensus politics at its lowest and most demeaning level; the Spirit of Kingsmere is alive and well and living in the senior echelons of the Liberal cabinet." from "The Canadian Forum," August 1973

Friday, October 5, 12 noon
SUB Theatre

Admission
FREE

STUDENTS' COUNCIL VACANCIES

The following vacancies exist on Students' Council:

Faculty of Arts : 1 seat

Faculty of Education : 1 seat

Nomination forms for the above positions are available at the Reception Desk, 2nd Floor, Students' Union Building.

Completed nomination forms should be delivered in a sealed envelope to the Office of the Vice-President, Academic, 2nd Floor, SUB, no later than 5:00 p.m., Wednesday, October 10, 1973.

If an election is necessary, such election will be held on Friday, October 19.

Patrick J. Delaney
Vice-President, Academic